

## Devon County Council Historic Environment Record

<b>Civil Parish &amp; District:</b> Buckland Monachorum, West Devon	<b>National Grid Reference:</b> SX 4901 6666	<b>Number:</b>
<b>Subject:</b> Archaeological monitoring and recording at Buckland Abbey, Devon.		<b>Photo attached:</b> Y
<b>Planning Application no:</b> 01871/2011	<b>Recipient museum:</b> National Trust	
<b>OASIS ID:</b> oakforda1-136794	<b>Museum Accession no:</b>	
<b>Contractor's reference number/code:</b> OA1041	<b>Dates fieldwork undertaken:</b> 18/09 – 28/09/12	
<p><b>Description of works:</b> An archaeological watching brief was undertaken by Oakford Archaeology between September and October 2012 at Buckland Abbey, Devon (SX 4901 6666). The site (Fig. 1) lies outside the scheduled area to the east of the main Buckland Abbey complex (SM 24846). An Iron Age enclosure and medieval farm building were identified to the north west of the proposed car park extension during excavations undertaken in advance of the construction of a new access path from the car park to the Abbey in 1987-8. Earthworks are present in the small paddock to the north of this path extending into a strip of woodland between the current car park and a lane</p> <p>A watching brief was maintained during works associated with the extension of the car park and associated works (Fig. 2). The initial ground reduction for the new car park extended to a depth of 0.3m, while the service runs and drainage were on average between 0.8-1m deep.</p> <p><b>Results:</b> The layer sequence revealed by the trenching typically consisted of the following: 0-0.3m    Topsoil 0.3-0.5m    Subsoil 0.5m+    Natural Subsoil</p> <p>Inspection of the exposed area showed no evidence of archaeological activity. It contained a 0.3m thick mid to dark brown silty loam topsoil (1000), overlying a 0.2m thick mid to mid red brown silty loam subsoil (1001). A mid yellow silty sand natural (1002) with very frequent shale inclusions was encountered at a depth of 0.5m below current ground level.</p> <p><b>Finds:</b> by John Allan</p> <p>A single sherd of probable prehistoric pottery, weighing 4g, was recovered from the topsoil (1000).</p> <p>In total there are 10 sherds weighing 146 g that are medieval in character. All of these were recovered from the topsoil (1000). They consist of a single sherd of North Devon coarseware, with a date range of the 13<sup>th</sup>-early 14<sup>th</sup> century; 4 sherds of late medieval granite derived hand-made micaceous ware including 1 ridgetile, and 5 sherds of upper greensand derived pottery. Four of these were heavily oxidised suggesting an earlier date of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century.</p> <p>The majority of the post-medieval pottery, consisting of 28 sherds (total weight 348g) and recovered from the topsoil, is of relatively modern industrial wares. Two sherds of early post-medieval granite derived wheel thrown pottery were also present; a single North Devon gravel tempered bowl body sherd (17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century) and one North Devon plain slip ware sherd (late 17<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> century) were also recovered. In addition a single fragment of English green bottle glass (1680-1730) was also found.</p>		

Although all the material is unstratified, the presence of prehistoric material from the topsoil clearly shows evidence of early occupation in the immediate vicinity, probably from the site identified to the north-west. While no features were identified due to the shallow nature of the excavations the presence of 11<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> century pottery would suggest Saxo-Norman activity in the area. Buckland Abbey was established in 1278, the last of 78 medieval Cistercian abbeys to be built in England and Wales, and it is probable that there may have been some level of pre-monastic occupation of the site.

**Project archive and OASIS entry**

The site records have been compiled into a fully integrated site archive which is currently held at Oakford Archaeology's offices under project number 1041, pending deposition with the National Trust. A summary of the investigations has been submitted to the on-line archaeological database OASIS (Online Access to the Index of archaeological InterventionS).

**Recorder:**

MFR Steinmetzer (Oakford Archaeology)

**Date sent to HER:**

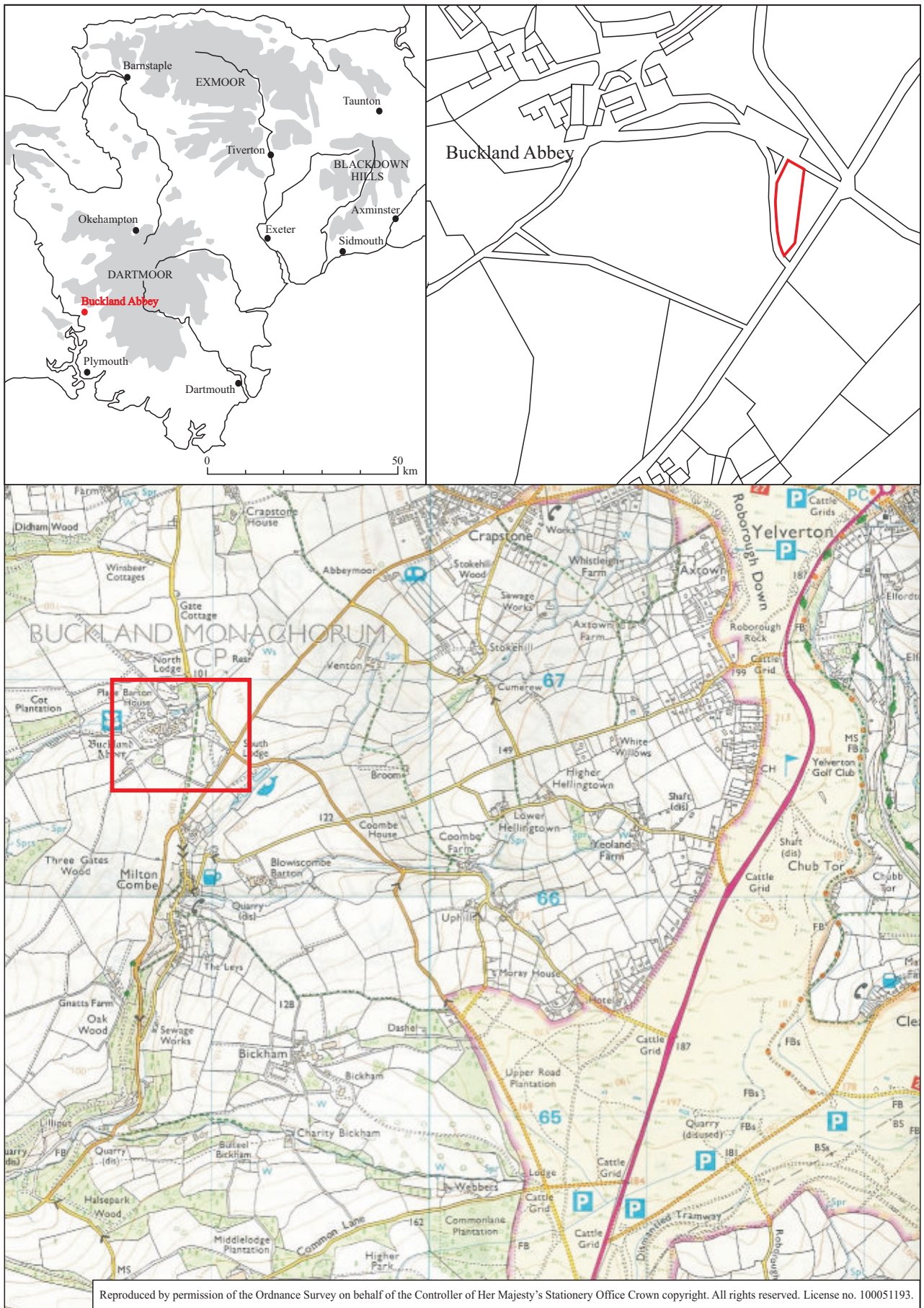


Fig. 1 Location of site



Fig. 2 Location of site showing monitored area (red).



Pl. 1 General view of car park extension showing underlying subsoil (1001). Looking south.